

Plant a tree, be carbon free

By Sheila Reynolds - Surrey North Delta Leader - February 29, 2008



Caroline Fuchs and Melissa Drury are selling potted seedlings tomorrow in the hopes of educating the public about reducing their carbon footprint. The trees can be taken home or planted by the Kwantlen University College students in Campbell Valley Park.

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You can plant it yourself or have someone else do it for you.

Regardless, purchasing a Douglas fir seedling and putting it in the ground will be a small step toward bettering the environment, says Caroline Fuchs.

As part of a class project, the fourth-year Kwantlen University College student and her classmates Melissa Drury, Tom Cupa and Travis Macfarlane have started a business where they're selling trees in the hopes of not only educating people, but providing residents with a way to reduce their carbon footprints.

"We need to take a leadership role and reduce the effects for future generations before it's too late," said Drury.

She added that while the provincial government-implemented carbon tax (effective July 1) is a step in the right direction, individuals can take other measures to reverse the effects of green house gases.

The students plan to sell their potted trees outside Choices Market at 3248 King George Highway tomorrow (Saturday, March 1). The seedlings, which they're calling "carbonators," cost \$8 each or three for \$20. Planting twelve seedlings will leave you carbon neutral for a year, the students claim.

The tiny evergreens can be taken home or the students will plant them in an approved area Campbell Valley Park, if the purchaser prefers.

The money made from tree sales will benefit the Kwantlen Venture Fund, an account that will eventually be used to provide seed capital for graduates wanting to launch their own businesses.

The quartet sold their needled wares on Valentine's Day at Kwantlen and at a recent kids' swap meet in Cloverdale. They also plan to have a table set up at Surrey's Earth Day celebrations April 19 with locations within the Bear Creek Park identified for planting.

If you'd like more information, e-mail carbonator.seedlings@gmail.com, phone 778-574-1498 or search "carbonators" on Facebook.

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